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PD

This is one of the most
disgusting telegrams we
ever read. No wonder
the message is mixed.

Pat

~~NSC Declassification Review [EO.13526]~~
~~DECLASSIFY IN FULL~~
by John Powers on 2/16/2018

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]

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E.O. 12055: GDS-1 10-9-65 (CASTRO, RAUL H) OR-M
TAGS: GR, MARR
SUBJECT: XX UNITAS: JOINT US/ARGENTINA NAVAL OPERATIONS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. STRAINED AND COOL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND US NAVIES WERE GREATLY IMPROVED BY ARGENTINA'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN XX UNITAS OPERATIONS. DURING MY DAY IN AND OUT CONTACTS WITH ARGENTINA NAVAL PERSONNEL IT HAD BECOME QUITE EVIDENT DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS RELATEDNESS BETWEEN ARGENTINE AND AMERICAN NAVIES--EVEN THOUGH PROPER--WERE FAR FROM BEING FRIENDLY. DURING MY FIRST YEAR IN ARGENTINA, EVERYTIME I CAME IN CONTACT WITH ADMIRAL HASSERA--THEN NAVY COMMANDER--I URGED HIM FOR ARGENTINA UNITAS PARTICIPATION. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT VACUOUS AND NON-COMMITAL, IT BECAME EVIDENT HASSERA WAS UNHAPPY WITH OUR FOREIGN POLICY, REAFFIRMING HIS VIEWS BY GOA'S NON-PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS. LAMBURSHINI'S DISTRIES OVER OUR FON POLICY IS ALSO WELL KNOWN, EXCEPT THAT ADMIRAL LAMBURSHINI OFFERED MORE FLEXIBILITY AND OFTEN EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO WORK WITH US NAVAL FORCES.

3. WITH SOME COAXING ADMIRAL LAMBURSHINI FINALLY MADE IT KNOWN ARGENTINA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN XX UNITAS NAVAL OPERATIONS. HE PLACED ONE CAVEAT AND THAT WAS OF IT BEING A LOW-KEY OPERATION--WITHOUT THE USUAL HULLARALO AND FANFARE. I VISITED PUERTO BELGRANO ON THE LAST DAY OF NAVAL MANEUVERS. I WAS MET WITH THE TRADITIONAL BARE COURTESIES AT THE AIRPORT THEN TAKEN FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF PUERTO BELGRANO'S NAVAL BASE. I CAME IN CONTACT WITH OFFICERS AND SAILORS OF BOTH NAVIES. I HAVE NEVER SEEN A CLOSER AND FRIENDLIER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERSONNEL OF BOTH NAVIES AS I HAD WITNESSED THAT DAY.

4. ON THAT EVENING (FEB 20), A BUFFET-DINNER DANCE WAS HELD AT THE RECREATION HALL. THIS BUFFET-DINNER WAS HOSTED BY ADMIRAL TORTI OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY WITH REAR ADMIRAL JOHN J. EKLUND USN AND I AS HONORED GUESTS. A TYPICAL NEW YEAR'S EVE SPIRIT SEEMED TO PREDOMINATE THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. THE ONLY INGREDIENT MISSING WAS THE SINGING OF "AULD LANG SYNE". IT WAS APPARENT THAT GOOD RELATIONS HAD REACHED THEIR HIGH PEAK. THIS WAS BORN OUT IN MY INTERVIEWS WITH OFFICERS OF BOTH NAVAL FORCES.

5. DURING THE EVENING I HAD LONG CHATS WITH ADMIRAL TORTI, THE SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT. HE MANIFESTED SATISFACTION AND HAPPINESS OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE JOINT OPERATION. HE SPOKE WARMLY OF THE UNITED STATES AND HOPED THE PREVAILING FRIENDLY SPIRIT WAS OF A PERMANENT NATURE AND NOT JUST A ONE-SHOT GOODWILL INJECTION. HIS COUNTER-PART REAR ADMIRAL

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JOHN JOSEPH EKLUND--LATERWISE ECHOED HIS REMARKS. ADMIRAL EKLUND ALSO EXUDED PRIDE OVER THE SUCCESSFUL MANEUVERS, BUT FOREMOST HE WAS PLEASED OVER THE FRIENDLY COMARADERIE REGAINED AFTER A TWO-YEAR'S LAPSE OF NON-ACTION.

6. DURING MY TOUR OF PUERTO BELGRANO BASE, WORD CAME TO ME THAT CAPTAIN ALLARA, COMMANDER OF 25 DE MAYO AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, WANTED ME TO VISIT HIS SHIP. THIS WAS DONE. CAPTAIN ALLARA WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY TO SEE ME--AS FOR OVER ONE YEAR HE AND I SHARED MANY OF THE THEN EXISTING US/GOA PROBLEMS. DURING HIS DAYS IN THE FOOTHOLD, CAPT. ALLARA HAD ALWAYS BEEN ACCESSIBLE AND NEVER STOOD ON PROTOCOL. EVEN THOUGH DURING THOSE DAYS, USG AND MUCH MORE SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WITH GOA THEN TODAY, HE, NEVERTHELESS, ALWAYS LISTENED, GAVE GOA'S SIDE OF THE STORY BUT WAS NEVER HOSTILE. IT CAN BE SAID ALLARA TENDS TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. *(Political, military, culture, arbitrary, independent, and so on)*

7. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ALLARA, HE BROUGHT OUT THE FACT THAT TIMERMANN'S RELEASE HAD STIRRED A NEGATIVE IMPACT AMONG BASE MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE EXPLAINED THE TIMING OF THE RELEASE WAS OFF. HE STATED MOST BASE PERSONNEL INTERPRETED TIMERMANN'S RELEASE AS A SIGN OF GOA'S WEAKNESS. HE FELT THIS WOULD TAKE AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS ON THEIR PART TO PLACATE BASE PERSONNEL. MY MEETING WITH ALLARA TOOK PLACE A DAY AFTER GENERAL MENENDEZ' ABATIVE ATTEMPT TO DEFY THE VIDELA GOVT. HE INTERPRETED MENENDEZ'S MOVE AS A SAD ONE AND ILL ADVISED. HE STATED THERE WERE OTHER INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS WHO HAD GIVEN LIP SERVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO MENENDEZ. ALLARA THEN MADE AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION ABOUT THE IMAGE OF THE GOVT. HIS VIEW WAS MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS LOSING PUBLIC SUPPORT AND WAS IN THE DOWNWARD TREND. ALLARA EXPLAINED THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR GOVT TO START USING CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. HE CONCLUDED BY PREDICTING A LONG AND TROUBLESOME ROAD AHEAD FOR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT FORESEE A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE FIVE YEARS.

8. NOTWITHSTANDING CAPT. ALLARA'S PERTHODA FORECAST ON MILITARY GOVERNMENT, I AM CONVINCED THAT BOTH NAVIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES BY THE JOINT UNITAS XX EXERCISE. THE TWO YEAR HIATUS WAS POLITICALLY BASED BUT THE CURRENT NAVY COMMANDER HAS RE-ASSESSED RELATIONS FOR THIS YEAR AT LEAST. THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED HAVE FOUND A RENEWED BASIS FOR COOPERATION IN HEMISPHERIC NAVAL MANEUVERS. HOW THE OPERATIONS WILL BE VIEWED NEXT YEAR--ESPECIALLY BY NAVY HEADQUARTERS POLITICAL ADVISORS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ARGENTINA NAVY JOINT OPERATIONS ARE AS HARD TO FORETELL 12 MONTHS IN ADVANCE AS ANY OTHER POLITICAL DECISION.

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